

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application prior to this amendment and are still pending. Claims 1 and 18 are amended herein. Claims 6, 7, 11-13, 19 and 21 were previously withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,548,373 to Komura (hereinafter “Komura”). Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite, among other things, “at least one service line that provides a service to the patient care equipment being routed into the arm passed the brake.” Komura does not disclose or suggest any service line that is routed into an arm passed a brake in the manner recited in amended claim 1. To the extent that Komura might be expected to have an electrical line running from switch 52 to solenoid 20, there would be no reason for that electrical line to be routed anywhere near Komura’s brake 12, but even if were, it wouldn’t be routed “into” Komura’s arm passed Komura’s brake. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 18, along with claims 2-17 which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 19-21 which depend from claim 18, are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

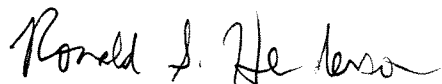
The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,265,701 to Ogasawara et al. (hereinafter “Ogasawara”); the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,197,109 to Rotondo et al. (hereinafter “Rotondo”); and the Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,213,481 to Marchese et al. (hereinafter “Marchese”). Claims 8-10, 14, 16 and 17 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claim 20 depends from claim 18. Accordingly, each of the examiner’s obviousness rejections is rendered moot because independent claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance as noted above.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (317) 231-7341.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to attorney docket no. 7175-74602.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald S. Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" being the most prominent.

Ronald S. Henderson
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